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*Christianities in Oceania: “Historical Genealogies and Anthropological Insularities”*

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I explore the themes contained in this special issue by asking how papers prompt us to ask: What difference does Christianity make – to ‘culture’, to relations with the state or nation, to the self? This question must be inflected by the realization that Christianity has a long-standing history in Oceania, and has become part of the religio-political landscape that contemporary believers inhabit and sometimes react against. Posing the question also involves an examination of how papers juxtapose versions of history (broader processes of reproduction and transformation over time) with religiously-motivated historiographies (how Christians themselves understand and construct the present in relation to the past). I use these reflections to argue for the usefulness of exploring distinctions and resonances among three orientations towards culture discernible in the papers as a whole: those of being ‘of’, ‘against’ and ‘for’ culture.